



EP21228.A02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobuyuki KOBAYASHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2631

Appln. No. : 09/910,849

Filed : July 24, 2001

For : DIGITAL RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98,
Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-200000, which was published on
August 4, 1995, along with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-339436, which was published on
December 10, 1999, along with an English language Abstract of the same; and

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 2000-231773, which was published
on August 22, 2000, along with an English language Abstract of the same.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite these patent
documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and are listed on a PTO-1449
Form which is also attached hereto. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the
appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to

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Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following commonly assigned, copending patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/855,657 to KANEDA, entitled "Tape Cartridge", which was filed in Japanese on May 16, 2001. Applicants note that an English language translation of the specification, which was filed on July 20, 2001, is being submitted with this statement; and

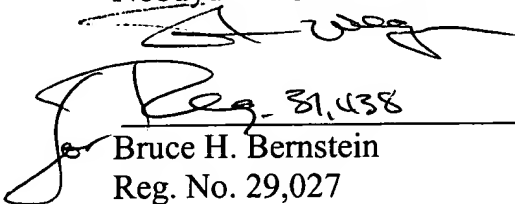
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/945,791 to KOBAYASHI et al., entitled "Digital Recording and Reproducing Apparatus", which was filed on September 5, 2001.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications are attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

October 23, 2001
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Respectfully submitted,
Nobuyuki KOBAYASHI et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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